

Scouting About

News from the South African Scout Association.

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SCOUTS
South Africa

Member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement

0860SCOUTS

Spring 2008

CANADIAN SILVER FOX AWARD



Winston Adams, a South African, formally Area Secretary of Cape Western Area and presently with the Africa Regional Office, received the Canadian Silver Fox Award.

The ceremony was conducted in Korea during the World Scout Conference, which ended on 18 July 2008.

This Regional executive and Scouter was presented with the top award of Scouting Canada. The citation on the award reads: "for services of the most exceptional character to Scouting in the International field".

Congratulations, Winston, from all your friends in South African Scouting.

CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUT AWARDS



Nigel Tonkin - Kwa-Zulu Natal
Michael Jordaan - Kwa-Zulu Natal
Charne Marais - Free State
Keven Cox - Eastern Cape
Bradley Kingon - Gauteng
Blythe Watson - Gauteng
Brian Kridge - Gauteng
Genevieve Erasmus - Kwa-Zulu Natal
Prashanth Lilram - Kwa-Zulu Natal

THE FOOD FOR LIFE PROJECT

The Food for Life project is being implemented in six provinces in South Africa. From reports received the majority are having great success using the techniques described in the beautifully illustrated, starter - silver - gold handbooks, with Scout Leaders, having attended skills training courses, assisting and advising with their Adult Leader manual, using the seed packs supplied..

NORTH WEST PROVINCE report that 36 District co-ordinators received training on the roll out of the programme as well as agricultural skills training.

MPUMALANGA say that food gardens were made both at individual venues as well as at schools, with each Scout/Cub preparing their own vegetable patch. Many of the Scout groups used this project to help others and donated their vegetables to the needy. 920 badges were earned.

EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE Food gardens have been started in the Mthatha and Butterworth Regions. In Grahamstown a group has started a garden which the photographs shows in a before and after situation. 282 badges have been earned.

FREE STATE and NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE 1144 Scouts took part in the project. The vast majority managed to harvest vegetables, but some, due to weather conditions were unsuccessful.

LIMPOPO PROVINCE implemented the project in August 2007, but due to lack of water, some villages have water delivered to them for consumption only, the effort has had to be delayed until the start of the rainy season and the new plantings are growing well at present. All Scout Leaders are trained in the programme, and as Home Based Caregivers they visit 250 householders each month and are able to supervise the project. Eighteen Food for Life gardens have donated their crops to schools and Churches. 500 badges have been earned.



BEFORE

AFTER →

KWA-ZULU NATAL Sebelo Jetro Hlophe reports that he has opened a new Troop in the Empangeni District and they have started the Food for Life gardens in the Pshesheya Primary School in mid-March 2008. The school principal provided funds to hire a tractor to cultivate the gardens each Scout with a door size plot. By the end of May the Troop started harvesting and selling the vegetables. With this income the Scouts were able to repay the school funds for the hire of the tractor and the cost of seeds. The new crop that was planted in June is already being sold for funds to send 16 Scouts to a course at B-P Camp in Durban. The Scouts have taken seeds to start a garden in their own back yards and parents have been asked to report back on their children's progress.



be prepared....



Ed Rose

20-04-1924 29-07-2008

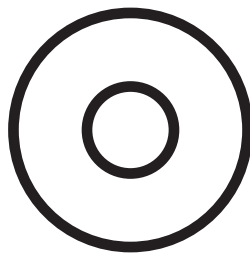
"Beaver" to all who new him, Ed joined the movement as a Cub in the 5th Woodstock Pack and later joined the 1st Table Bay Sea Scouts where he became a Kings Scout. Ed met Robert Baden-Powell, our founder, at the start of his South African tour in 1931. "Beaver" was one of the very last of our Scouters who could say that he had shaken hands with "B-P".

Ed married Hazel or "Ricki" as we all knew her and formed a formidable Scouting team in the 70s and 80s and did great work in the old CW20, now CW10 District. He completed his Scout Wood Badge under Impie Briant, Course Director in 1961, then his Rover Wood Badge in 1968. He then undertook "the Rover Job" in Cape Western Area. He went on to become the National Commissioner for Rovers, a post he held until recently when ill health forced him to step down.

"Beaver" was awarded the highest merit award a South African uniformed Scouter can receive, the Order of the Silver Springbok.

To Sue and Michelle we extend our heart-felt condolences.

GONE HOME



Anna Sadie Matietseng

January 1929 31 August 2008

The Grand Lady of Scouting in Bloemfontein

Anna or "Sadie" joined the Scout Movement in 1973 as Pack Scouter at 3rd Saulspoort, Rustenburg. In 1980 she joined 4th Bloemfontein Group and in 1981 became District Commissioner for Cub Programme, which position she held until her death.

Sadie will be remembered by many Pack Scouters for her regular attendance at National Pow-Wows, including the recent gathering, in April, in Cape Town.

A lady with a heart of gold and always practicing the 8th Scout Law cheerful and singing and dancing.



Mark Matima

14 May 1943 - 4 July 2008

We commemorate the man, Mark Matima, known as "Buffalo" to members of the Scout movement.

Mark joined Scouting in 1957. He was recruited while working at Earnest Oppenheimer Hospital, by a man who traveled around carrying his Scouting equipment tied to the back of his bicycle.

He became a Troop Scouter 1969 in Thabong. He served in many positions including District Commissioner in the Goldfields. For some time he was a member of the Training Team and director of many courses.

He attended Jamborees as a member of the South African contingent in Norway, 1975 and Philmont in New Mexico in 1979.

He was part of the Quo Vadis Project from 1976 to 1979, when the World Scout Bureau gave South African Scouting the challenge to amalgamate all divisions, based on colour, into a single movement. This was successful in 1977.

Chief Scout, Mr Garnet de la Hunt invited Mark to attend the Scout conference in Zimbabwe in 1990.

As Field Organiser for Central Area from 2001, he traveled around the Free State and Northern Cape in his little red car, making people aware of Scouting in schools and churches. He was most successful in recruiting many to Scouting.

In February 2004 he took up a position in the Eastern Cape Medical circles. In that Area he continued to make a contribution to the movement.

DUTY TO GOD



TO SERVE OTHERS IS TO SERVE GOD

Baden Powell said: "The teaching of service is not merely a matter of teaching in theory, but the development of two distinct phases; the inculcation of the spirit of goodwill, and the provision of opportunity for its expression in practice."

In our "Gift for Peace" and in our celebration of the existence of our great movement, we should be aware

that "Scouting Helps Make a Better World" a better world can only be brought about through service to others, in a spirit of brotherhood with all one's fellows. Brotherhood and service go hand in hand.

The Wise Man Knows It

The wise man knows that his primary mission on this earth is to serve to give and not only to take. In giving, you come in time to understand your true worth.

Being of service to others and indeed to all the Father's creations eventually gives you a priceless sense of wellbeing, of being wanted not for your material worth, but because of your value to your fellow man.

To know, day in and day out, that you are being of service to others, however humble, that service may appear to be, it is to know that you are doing your Father's work.

Walk with Nature



Work with Nature



If you are really, really concerned about the condition in which our planet earth finds itself, go to www.treehugger.com and read the many, varied and interesting articles that can assist you and your Pack or Troop get more involved in "global warming" issues.

By being a Scout our youth is indeed "Preparing for Life"

A life that is becoming more and more complicated and difficult as they grow.

B-P.'S OUTLOOK

The Origin of Scouting for Boys

The other inventors of Scouting invariably give the dates on which they hit on the idea, so it may be interesting to some who are not already aware of the origins of our scheme if I give a few facts about our particular Boy Scouts.

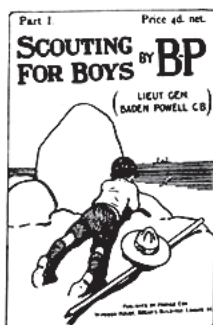
The first idea of such training came to me a very long time ago when training soldiers. When I was adjutant of my regiment in 1883 I wrote my first handbook on training soldiers by means which were attractive to them, developing their character for campaigning as much as their drill-ability. This was followed by another, and yet a third in 1898. This latter, "Aids to Scouting", came some how to be used in a good many schools and by captains of Boy's Brigades, and other organizations for boys, in spite of the fact that it had been written entirely for soldiers. I therefore rewrote it for developing character in boys by attractions which appealed more directly to them.

The uniform, in every detail, was taken from a sketch of myself in the kit in which I wore in South Africa, 1887 and 1896 and in Kashmir in 1897-8.

Our badge was taken from the "North Point" used on maps for orientating them with the North; it was sanctioned for use for Trained Scouts in the Army 1898. Our motto "Be Prepared" was the motto of the South African Constabulary, in which I served.

Many of our ideas were taken from the customs of the Zulus and Red Indians, and Japanese, many were taken from the code of the Knights of the Middle Ages, many were cribbed from other people, such as Cuhulain of Ireland, Dr Jahn, Sir W.A. Smith, Thompson Seton, Dan Beard etc., and some were of my own invention

January 1914



RURAL SCOUTING

Put yourself in the place of a Troop Scouter, running a Troop in a small village way out there in the country. You pick up your copy of the "Troop Leaders Handbook" for inspiration in preparing your short term programme. You think "All Scouts should be able to swim!" - they should be able to do "more advanced First Aid!" Hiking? "most of my Scouts have to walk 20 km just to get to school each day!" Advanced Pioneering, they are tired of just making trestles with the few staves we have. Our village has not yet been connected to the electricity grid, so no computers.

And so on.

Solution:

Swimming where do I find the nearest swimming pool? Most of my Scouts have never even seen one, they go down to the river and jump into one of the small, hopefully, unpolluted pools. First Aid I have taught them all the basic First Aid I know, St John's or Red Cross are miles away in the next big town. Pioneering - apart from chopping down the few bluegums on a friendly farmers land, where do we get the heavier rope to do the lashings.

Maybe a little overstated, but what can we do to make our rural Scouter's lot a happier one? Help our rural Scouts to feel a greater sense of achievement with the limited resources at their disposal?

Our National Commissioners are prepared to talk to, and receive suggestions from our rural Scouters, on how these difficulties can be overcome. It is not their intention to water down the requirements for the rural Scout, but to make Scouting's awards a more attainable goal in these areas.

If you have had the experience and have some good ideas, write your suggestions down, post them to The National Scout Programme Commissioner, S.A.H.Q. - P.O. Box 3424, Clearinch 7700 for consideration.

INSURE YOUR GROUP PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS

It is a requirement of P.O. & R. and The National Finance Policy that places a responsibility on every Group Committee to adequately insure the Scout property, equipment and furnishings over which they have

control. In most instances these "possessions" have been acquired over many years and by many past Parent Committees using public money. If they now, had to be replaced because of fire or theft, it would be impossible to do without this cover. Adequate cover, what does that mean? Your hall should be "valued" by a qualified evaluator, the Insurance Company will provide that service, and a valued inventory kept of

all the hall contents. Include any other equipment stored in another place. The insurance policy will be a recurring cost, but nothing like the cost to a Group that has lost all. Just ask a Scout Group that has been through a fire. All Scout properties and equipment are vested in The Chief Scout, through the offices of your Provincial Commissioner and are therefore not yours to do with as you please.

A number of Scout Groups accepted the challenge to "Clean up the World" on 20th September 2008. This was an international challenge to everyone, not only Scouting, and from early reports, it was well supported by all manner of concerned people and municipalities in the country. Especially sponsored yellow bags and rubber gloves were provided for participants.

Humewood Sea Scout Group, Algoa Group Cubs and St Croix Sea Scout Group of Port Elizabeth braved the threatening weather to turn out in force to clean up a 5 km stretch of coastline devastated by severe storms earlier the same month.

The photo shows one of two piles of trash collected by the Cubs, Scouts and Scouters of the Humewood Sea Scout Group.

A full report is being compiled by SAHQ of the occasion. If your Group or District was involved, send a report and photos to sahq@scouting.org.za - or post to: SAHQ P. O. Box 2434, Clearinch 7740.

"Clean Up The World"

20th September 2008



Humewood Sea Scouts & Cubs

RECRUITMENT OF ADULT LEADERS

It is very unusual for people to actually seek out and ask us to do a job in Scouting. A recent survey highlighted that more than half of the adults in voluntary organizations did not, in fact, volunteer but were actually asked to take on a specific job. In fact they were head hunted. Once you have found a person that matches the skills and qualities that you require to do the job you are wanting to fill, just go on Ask them, they can only say no

An invitation to volunteer

When you go and ask a person to help you, make sure that you can answer the questions they will most likely ask you. Specifically make sure you can answer questions like What do you actually want me to do? Where and when do I do it? What does it involve? Who will I be working with? What help do I get? What equipment and facilities are available? How long do you want me to do the job? What do I get out of it?

Unfortunately, this last question comes up more and more. So many people do not understand the meaning of the word "volunteer" and cannot grasp the idea of doing something for no financial reward.

If you have a convincing answer to these questions, and don't overstate the case with promises you can't keep, then you stand a good chance of getting the person to say yes. We must sell the benefits of Scouting to them, not our problems of closing units or shortages of Leaders. Be positive in your discussions.

Support

Once you have got a person to agree to do the job you should ensure that They fit into the existing team. Let them ease into the job at their own pace don't throw them in at the deep end and expect them to swim. Start them off immediately with informal and appropriate formal training to help them do the job. Provide them with a personal training adviser. It was you who asked them to help, you are the person in Scouting they will turn to. Be there for them.



SEA SCOUTING Formed in 1910

Sea Scouting, the specialized form of Scouting for youth especially interested in ships, sailing, canoeing, motor boating and the modern sports of board sailing and surfing, was brought into being by the founder way back in 1910. As we know, B-P himself, as a boy, sailed around Britain with his older brothers. He saw that with the historic past of the British nation as a maritime power, that most boys on that island would enjoy activities "on the water", even if this was not possible because of financial constraints.

By the time of the "Great War" of 1914/18, Sea Scouts formed a great part of the Coast Watch teams around Britain. Jack Cornwall, the 16 year old Scout, was posthumously presented with the Victoria Cross for his brave actions in that great sea battle off Jutland in 1916.

By the time of the Second World War 1939/45, many former Sea Scouts, not only British, but South African as well as other nations, fought and died in their ships. In logbooks of that time, we can see "Rolls of Honour" inscribed with the names of deceased former Sea Scouts and Scouters of those Groups.

We keep celebrating centuries of our movement 1907, World Scouting. 1908, Scouting being formed in South Africa, and now in two years time, the formation of the branch of Scouting - Sea Scouting 1910/2010. I believe plans are in motion in Western Cape for Sea Scouting there to be involved in the "Volvo Around the World Race" in November. What about Sea Scout Groups in other provinces to be involved in celebrating this 100 year milestone?



I invite Sea Scout Groups to contact me with their plans. Lets find out which Sea Scout Group in the country has an unbroken history, stretching furthest back.

GEOCACHING

A Hi-Tech Treasure Hunt

At the end of August I had the pleasure of touring the west coast, admiring the beautiful flower displays afforded in that part of our South Africa. On our way home, stopped off in Montagu in the western cape. There I picked up a pamphlet explaining GEOCACHING and giving some co-ordinates in the area. I just had to have a go!

How does it work?

All you need is a GPS receiver (Global Positioning System) and Internet access. Log onto www.geocaching.com then sign up (free) and download the position of a cache near you (over 1500 in RSA). Get a map of the area or use the built-in one on the GPS you are using, or even look at



Google Earth on your computer then head out there into the countryside, to the top of mountains, into nice parks, or to just a roadside destination, in search for the Cache (box). When you find it, sign the logbook and if you take an item out of the cache, leave another one behind. Once back at the computer, log your visit on the site and share your experience with the GeoCaching community around the world. Certainly, a modern way to get out and Scout in our beautiful countryside.

Contributions can be:

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be prepared....